



PATENT  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 08203.0005-03

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: )  
 )  
John BUTLER et al. )  
 )  
Application No.: 10/635,017 ) Group Art Unit: 3732  
 )  
Filed: August 6, 2003 ) Examiner: Unknown  
 )  
For: WOUND RETRACTOR )

**Mail Stop Missing Parts**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached Form PTO 1449. To the best of the undersigned's knowledge, this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

The documents listed in the 1449 form were previously cited in a prior Application No. 10/374,523, filed February 27, 2003, upon which Applicants rely for the benefits of 35 U.S.C. § 120. Under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d), copies of the previously-cited documents are not being submitted herewith.

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Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached 1449 form.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and Applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Patent Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
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Dated: December 23, 2003

By: 

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## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

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Filing Date	August 6, 2003	Group:	3732

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date If Appropriate
	1,157,202	10/1915	McLeland			
	1,598,284	08/1926	Kinney			
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	2,695,608	11/1954	Gibbon			
	2,835,253	05/1958	Borgeson			
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	3,244,169	04/1966	Baxter			
	3,332,417	07/1967	Blanford et al.			
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	3,397,692	08/1968	Creager, Jr. et al.			
	3,522,800	08/1970	Lesser			
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	3,782,370	01/1974	McDonald			
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	3,841,332	10/1974	Treacle			

Examiner	Date Considered
<p>*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</p>	
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	3,907,389	09/1975	Cox et al.			
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	4,130,113	12/1978	Graham			
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	4,998,538	03/1991	Charowsky et al.			
	5,041,095	08/1991	Littrell			
	5,045,070	09/1991	Grodecki et al.			
	D 320,658	10/1991	Quigley et al.			
	5,125,897	06/1992	Quinn et al.			
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	5,299,582	04/1994	Potts			

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Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Publication Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation Yes or No
	WO 86/06272	11/1986	PCT			
	WO 92/11880	07/1992	PCT			
	WO 92/21292	12/1992	PCT			
	WO 93/05740	04/1993	PCT			
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	WO 00/35356	06/2000	PCT			
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	GB 2,255,019	10/1992	UK			
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	EP 0,142,262	05/1985	Europe			

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	EP 0,537,768	04/1993	Europe			
	EP 0,950,376	10/1999	Europe			
	EP 1,118,657	07/2001	Europe			No
	1,456,623	09/1966	France			No
	DE 37 39 532	12/1988	Germany			No
	DE 37 37 121	05/1989	Germany			No
	DE 296 00 939	06/1998	Germany			No
	10-108868	04/1998	Japan			No

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